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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

Date of Deposit: November 20, 2003

I hereby certify under 37 CFR 1.10 that this correspondence and enumerated documents is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as "First Class Mail Post Office to Addressee" with sufficient postage on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop DD, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

*Sarah Schlie*  
Sarah Schlie

Docket No.: 57517-43

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: Joerg Hoffmann et al.

Filed: July 16, 2003 Group Art Unit: 3682

Serial No: 10/620,646 Examiner: TBA

For: **HYDRODYNAMIC THRUST BEARING**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Mail Stop DD  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In order to comply with 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and copies of the documents listed thereon.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's consideration of the cited reference and entry into the record of this application and that it be cited of record in the prosecution history of the present application by initialing Form PTO-1449 next to the document. Such initialing is requested even if the Examiner does not consider a cited document to be sufficiently pertinent to use in a rejection, or otherwise does not consider it to be prior art for any reason, or even if the Examiner does not believe that the guidelines for citation have been fully complied with. This is requested so that each document becomes listed on the face of the patent issuing on the present application.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR 1.56 but the citation of such document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner, in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best

prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104 and in the course of each search, will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

The present Information Disclosure Statement has been submitted prior to the receipt of an Office Action in this application. Accordingly, no fee is due. However, in the event that a first Office Action was mailed on or before the date of submission of this disclosure statement, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees to deposit Account No. 50-0675, Order No. 057517-0043.

Authorization is hereby given to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-0675, Order No. 057517-0043.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 20, 2003

*Anna Vishev*  
Anna Vishev  
Reg. No. 45,018

Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP  
919 Third Avenue  
New York NY 10022  
212-756-2000



FORM PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b>  (Use several sheets if necessary)	Serial No. 10/620,646 Inventors: Joerg Hoffmann et al. Docket No. 57517-43
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**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	5,357,163	10/18/94	Minakuchi et al.			

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	TRANSLATION
	1 251 626	10/23/02	Europe	N/A
	2001132738	5/18/01	Japan	Abstract
	2000324753	11/24/00	Japan	Abstract
	2000310220	11/7/00	Japan	Abstract
	196 37 015	3/19/98	Germany	Abstract
	196 37 014	3/19/98	Germany	Abstract
	26 36 649	3/10/77	Germany	Description and Claims of corresponding U.S. Application No. 4,082,293
	1 337 621	11/14/73	Great Britain	N/A
	274,954	7/28/27	Great Britain	N/A

**OTHER DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL	AUTHOR, TITLE, DATE, PERTINENT PAGES, ETC.
	Search Report, Germany, April 11, 2003

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	